



first lutheran  
church

Rest. Heal. Grow. Love. Serve. Belong.

# the torch



Volume 10, Issue 2-3  
Mid-Summer 2017

## Musings

### *Leaky Boats*

Look at that vast information source called the Internet — Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram; sites to buy everything you could ever need; sites to explore every topic under the sun — sometimes it seems there are “a gazillion” political news and rumor sites.

It can be difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. How can we know what to put our trust in?

A few months ago, a man in Alaska put his trust in one of those “gazillion” websites. It informed him that he could make an inflatable raft out of duct tape. It *could* take him all the way to Victoria, British Columbia.

So, he made a raft using \$652.31 worth of duct tape... and set sail. But even before he got out of the Gastineau Channel in Juneau, his homemade boat began to leak and only the quick and skillful work of the U.S. Coast Guard saved him.

So it is in the spiritual lives of many people these days. All around us, every day, our culture tells us that we can make our own way

to heaven, that whatever lies ahead of us beyond this life is something we can deal with on our own.

We sail through life testing one belief system or another, this god or that one, and we end up in a very leaky spiritual boat with no certain answers to the important questions in life, without a sure hope for our eternal futures.

But as those who put their faith in God, we never have to worry about our spiritual boats falling apart. As Psalm 16 says, when we put our trust in the Lord, we can be sure that our eternal futures are secure.

God will always be at our side to lead and guide. He will fill our hearts and souls with the joy of His presence.

Isn't that promise better than duct tape?

*Pastor Mike*



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## Do You Feel Special?

SAVE THIS DATE  
Friday, December 1 at 7:00 pm

Well, you are! Find out more at Advent by Candlelight 2017. This year's theme is: **"CHOSEN BY GOD"**

Plan to join the fun! See Juanita Eddings or Barbara Franckowiak for details or if you have questions.

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## LWML CHATTER

"Idle hands are the devil's workshop" is a proverb used by parents in by-gone days. Some of our ladies heed that warning and continue sewing blankets for Lutheran World Relief as well as our local needs. Why not join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in the Patio Room?

Today's version of that proverb might be "Idle minds are the devil's paradise." We are tempted to let the media and/or society do our thinking for us.

How do we change our habits and thought patterns? One way is to reflect on biblical themes:

1. *In the beginning God created all things and they were very good.*
2. *Man, created in God's image, had free will.*
3. *Adam and Eve were tempted to be "like God" and fell for the devil's lie.*
4. *Yes, God stipulated some punishment, but it was a loving God that took them out of Eden before they*

*could eat from the Tree of Life and spend eternity away from God and all happiness.*

You'll find these points in the first three chapters of the Bible. The rest of Genesis, and the 65 books that follow, tell us how God is bringing all of us back to Genesis 1 & 2.

### READ the BIBLE.

There are excellent translations available for easy reading. (For example, The New Living translation will keep your interest.)

You don't need to read for debate. Read for pleasure, relaxation, comfort, encouragement, and for life. Join a Bible class to share empathy, encouragement, and knowledge.

We learn from God that all people are the work of His hands and redeemed by Jesus' death on the cross, and like Him we will be raised from the dead.

**Read — and maybe sew — and have a fun summer!**

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## Special Voters Meeting

**What: SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING**

**When: Sunday, July 2**—Q&A Session after second service

**Sunday, July 9**—Meeting at 11:00 am

**Why:** The purpose of the meeting is two-fold. (1) To approve a change to the 2017 budget and (2) to approve extending a non-tenured call to Nathan Linehan as DCE.

We have welcomed several younger families with children over the last year. Leadership has interviewed Nathan and recommends that we extend this call. He will work with children, families, and young adults.

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**DON'T MISS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!**

**Tuesday, August 1**

**5:30-to 8:30 PM in the FLC Parking Lot**

**SnoCones + Hotdogs + Comfort Dog Reuben + Bounce House + and more**

**Want to help? Contact the church office at 673-8894**

## *Celebrating in July*

### **BIRTHDAYS . . .**

- 1 Regina Thornton
- 1 Curtis Dorsey
- 4 Craig Hackerd
- 6 Buck Foster
- 7 LeRoy Hilbers
- 11 Juanita Eddings
- 13 Kayla Schweitzer
- 18 David Denley
- 18 Shaylyn Matthies
- 20 Cheryl Lang
- 20 John Olivera
- 22 Len Close
- 29 Darlyn Close
- 29 Bonnie Sloan
- 30 Brenna Standard
- 31 Dylan Efimoff

### **ANNIVERSARIES . . .**

- 2 Shawn and Arlyn Matthies
- 5 Don Reeves and Grace Spoor-Reeves
- 20 Eric and Kate Mackensen
- 27 Al and Karin Vannett
- 29 Jerry and Lisa Gross

### *Events: Mark Your Calendars*

Tuesday, July 4—**Independence Day**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, August 1—National Night Out

Deadline to submit items for the next issue of The Torch: Wednesday — August 30, 2017



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### ***Our Mission Statement***

**Bringing the Word of God and Christ's gift of salvation into every life as the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting physical and spiritual needs.**

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**We Are First Lutheran Church.**